

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00  
ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 PA-01  
SP-02 SS-15 AF-10 /060 W  
-----065457 261551Z /43

O R 261438Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6455  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MADRID  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMCONSUL OPORTO POUCH  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA  
USMISSION USNATO  
DIA WASHDC  
USNMR SHAPE BEL  
COMUSFORAZ

CONFIDENTIAL LISBON 5523

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT PO  
SUBJ: PRESIDENT AND REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL TO MEET  
ON DISMISSING SOARES

REF: LISBON 5501 (DTG 251657Z JUL 78)

SUMMARY: PRESIDENT EANES, AFTER MEETING WITH MARIO SOARES AND  
CDS PRESIDENT FREITAS DO AMARAL, CONVENED THE REVOLUTIONARY  
COUNCIL JULY 26 TO DISCUSS DISMISSING PRIME MINISTER  
SOARES. EANES SAID PS AND CDS POSITIONS WERE IRRECONCILABLE  
AND THAT THE POLITICAL BASE FOR THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT NO LONGER  
EXISTED. EANES IS ADHERING STRICTLY TO CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS  
AND CAN BE EXPECTED TO MOVE CAUTIOUSLY TOWARD THE  
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FORMATION OF A NEW GOVERNMENT. THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT REMAINS  
IN OFFICE UNTIL A NEW GOVERNMENT IS IN PLACE. END SUMMARY.

1. PRESIDENT TO DECIDE ON SOARES DISMISSAL: PRESIDENT EANES  
ISSUED A STATEMENT LATE JULY 25--AFTER MEETING WITH PRIME  
MINISTER MARIO SOARES AND CDS PRESIDENT FREITAS DO AMARAL  
EARLIER IN THE DAY--ANNOUNCING THAT:

--THE PS AND CDS POSITIONS WERE IRRECONCILABLE;  
--THE CONDITIONS WHICH SERVED AS THE POLITICAL BASE FOR THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT NO LONGER EXIST;  
--HE WOULD TAKE THE NEXT STEPS CALLED FOR UNDER CONSTITUTION ARTICLE 147A (BY WHICH THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL ADVISES THE PRESIDENT ON NOMINATION AND DISMISSAL OF THE PRIME MINISTER.)

2. PS AND CDS ON CRISIS: AFTER MEETING WITH PRESIDENT EANES, FREITAS DO AMARAL ANNOUNCED THAT THE CDS WAS BREAKING ITS AGREEMENT WITH THE SOCIALIST PARTY AND COULD NO LONGER SUPPORT THE GOVERNMENT. HE SAID THE CDS STATE SECRETARIES WOULD ALSO PRESENT THEIR RESIGNATIONS AND CALLED FOR AN END TO THE SECOND SOARES GOVERNMENT. AMARAL SAID THE CDS CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT HARMONIOUS PS/CDS RELATIONS ARE IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST. MARIO SOARES, FOLLOWING HIS OWN MEETING WITH PRESIDENT EANES, SAID HE HAD NOT YET RESIGNED AND HAD NOT BEEN DISMISSED. HE NOTED THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD NOT SIGNED THE GOVERNMENTAL DECREES DISMISSING THE THREE CDS MINISTERS AND NAMING THREE SOCIALIST MINISTERS IN THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT TO ASSUME THEIR REPONSIBILITIES. SOARES AID THE SOCIALISTS WOULD CONSIDER FORMING A NEW GOVERNMENT WITH THE CDS, BUT THAT IT WOULD NOT BE EASY TO REACH AN AGREEMENT UNDER CRISIS CONDITIONS WHEN IT HAD BEEN IMPOSSIBLE THROUGH QUIET NEGOTIATIONS.

3. OPPOSITION POSITIONS: THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PSD) ISSUED A STATEMENT JULY 25 ACCUSING THE PS AND CDS OF

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INFILCTING THEIR INTERNAL DIFFICULTIES ON THE PORTUGUESE PEOPLE AND SEEKING TO CLOSE ALL DOORS TO A "STABLE AND PATRIOTIC DEMOCRATIC SOLUTION". THE COMMUNIST PARTY STATED THAT IT CONSIDERED PS REJECTION OF THE "CDS ULTIMATUM" A POSITIVE STEP AND DECLARED THAT THE COMMUNISTS WERE DISPOSED TO EXAMINE POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVES WITH THE PS, OTHER DEMOCRATIC FORCES AND SECTORS, AND THE ORGANS OF SOVEREIGNTY.

4. COMMENT: BY REFUSING TO RESIGN, SOARES HAS FORCED EANES TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE. AS HE HAS IN THE PAST, THE PRESIDENT IS ADHERING STRICTLY TO CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS DOWN TO CITING THE PRECISE CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY FOR HIS ACTIONS. THE PRESIDENT CAN BE EXPECTED TO MOVE CAUTIOUSLY AND DELIBERATELY TO FORM A NEW GOVERNMENT. WHEN APPOINTING A NEW PRIME MINISTER THE PRESIDENT IS REQUIRED BY THE CONSTITUTION TO CONSULT WITH THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL AND THE POLITICAL PARTIES REPRESENTED IN THE ASSEMBLY, AND TO GIVE DUE CONSIDERATION TO ELECTION RESULTS. EANES IS SCHEDULED TO MEET WITH PSD AND UDP (POPULAR DEMOCRATIC UNION) REPRESENTATIVES LATER TODAY. A NEW GOVERNMENT PROGRAM MUST BE PRESENTED TO THE ASSEMBLY WITHIN TEN DAYS OF THE NEW PRIME MINISTER'S NOMINATION. THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT REMAINS IN OFFICE UNTIL A NEW GOVERNMENT

IS IN PLACE.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESIDENT, POLITICAL STABILITY, POLITICAL PARTIES, MEETINGS, FORM OF GOVERNMENT  
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**Decapton Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
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**TAGS:** PINT, PO, CDS, (SOARES, MARIO), (AMARAL, FREITAS DO)  
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